GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3340
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2000
INTERNET DHABAS
SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (PATIL)

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up Internet Dhabas in all block Headquarters in the country by March, 2001;

(b) the number of block headquarters in Maharashtra where Internet Dhabas are to be set up during the current year; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to achieve the target of setting up of said Dhabas in all the block headquarters of the country by March, 2001?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 318.

(c) The thrust will be to franchise out the Internet Dhabas to unemployed persons by advertising in the newspapers. The Heads of Telecom Circles have been advised to interact with the State Governments in popularizing this venture. The franchisees will arrange for the necessary infrastructure for the Internet Dhabas on their own. If they require assistance in obtaining loan from Banks, etc., the requisite help will be provided by the field units of the Department of Telecom Operations. The franchisees will be provided with free internet access. In addition, an incentive of 25% of the PSTN dial up charges will be given to them. The internet usage charges leviable from the customers by the franchisees will be decided by the market forces.